

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected all of the claims as either anticipated by Russell et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,496,519 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), or obvious thereover under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), with the exception of claims 95, 111, 127 and 141, which were found to contain allowable subject matter. Reconsideration is requested.

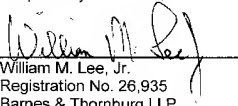
Russell '519 was filed on August 27, 1998, and that is the earliest effective date of Russell '519 as a reference.

The invention of the present application was before August 27, 1998. Submitted herewith is a Declaration of one of the inventors of the present application, Christopher Thomas William Ramsden. Appended to Mr. Ramsden's Declaration is the invention disclosure for the present application, which was submitted to the assignee of the present application, Nortel Networks Limited, on July 22, 1998. The evidence is clear that the invention of the present application was prior to August 27, 1998 and filing of the present application was diligently pursued with the filing occurring December 2, 1998. In fact, initial instructions were mailed to the undersigned on October 31, 1998 and received by the undersigned on November 4, 1998. The filing of the application was briefly delayed awaiting full execution of the Declaration and Assignment documents for this application by the many inventors. Filing of the application occurred, as the Patent and Trademark Office is aware, on December 2, 1998.

Therefore, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.131, Russell is overcome as a reference. Accordingly, it is submitted that all rejections of the application have been overcome, and that the application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner's further and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore urged.

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Respectfully submitted,



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